

Thursday - 18 Oct.

Jane Trevelyan

My dear Gray.

Your's of "Monday" reached me last afternoon, too late for reply by mail -

The *Carex ramensis* is in very bad order, & quite mouldy, so that I am not astonished that you should not recognize in it your old friend *C. aurea*, Nutt. which I doubt not that it is - & as this species has very commonly the uppermost spike fertile at the apex, it is not in fact, unlike *C. bicolor*, All. in that state. The differences are principally, I think, as follows,

Allion's plant has commonly but 3 (much smaller) spikes all terminal, or nearly so - whilst Nutt's has very generally the remote 4th spike -

Allion's has a plano-convex per.^m indistinctly nerved, & the scale is rightly described by Kth. as "obovate-elliptica apice rotundata" whilst Nuttall's has the per.^m "obovate or pear-shaped, obtuse, nerved, longer than the ovate acute scale," as no less correctly described by the great - (est!!) Am.ⁿ authority in Gray's Man.! - Of the 2 spec.^{ies} ramensis, one has the upper spike androgynous - the other has lost it altogether - both have the remote lower spike - & I doubt not you have more shelter specimens please

I have jiggered Torrey's nomenclature as to the names of the *Carex* plants. I think it is a mistake - but he has not yet commenced - you must tell him up yourself.

compare them with your authentic *C. aurea*
(arranged with your *Panicum* - Alas! your Index
is not yet made!) & then judge accordingly -
letting me know the result, at leisure -

of *C. nicotianae*, all. I have only 2 (rather poor)
Europ.ⁿ spec.^{ies} - If I ever saw any American
ones - which I do not now remember to have
done - they must be in your Herb. - arranged
with my "Strata" - unless I took, for the nonce,
your Friend Luck.^{ies} & *C. nicotianae*. resting on -
I know not what - "All which is respectfully submitted"
H.

I now, on my part, ask your attention
to the enclosed grass - which is a fragment of the
spec.^{ies} you gave me out of brother Charley's
Lake Superior Collec.^{ies} - doubtless, (also in Agassiz's
therefore in your way - Guiding myself by
Michaux's Char. 1. p. 62 I think it is his *Aira*
melicoides, & the *Graphophorum* of Desv. as
given by Kunth 1. p. 250. a plant which though
credited to Canada appears to be unknown to
our modern botanists - Our friend Torrey, refers
(doubtfully) to *Kaleria Penns.* the "*G. ? Elliottii*" of
Kth. - Loring's plant is very near to *Distichlis*
in its most important Char.^s - let me know about
it - I send you a mere bit, as you have abundant

shelter specimens -

Since my return to N.Y. I skinned Sam. 10th Feb.
You wrote about Cakes' plants - He said that
altho' they are doubtless very beautiful, yet, as
he had most, if not all, of the species, he did
not think it worth while to subscribe for a set.

I believe this is all - in the way of business!

Your few lines were very welcome, as I was ra-
ther inclined to be fidgetty about you - Olney told
me that he thought you were working too hard
for your health - which I was predisposed to fear -
& as it is very long since I heard from the
dear "swee. wife" I had begun to be anxious
about her also - I pray you my Dr. Gray be
more moderate - It is "cheapest" in the end.

Torrey is in town, & Eliza - The latter goes
up to W. Point with Maj. Belmonte next week
to make a short visit to Mrs. Parley - Jane, say
I believe, preceded them - Mrs. B. tells me, to my
great regret, that the Prof.^r is scarcely able to
leave his room - & is to spend the winter in Fla.^a
I am most sorry to say that both Torrey & I
missed Prof. Harvey, though we planned each other about
in the vain endeavour to meet - I crossed him
at least twice, between his quarters - Pine St. & Jan. St.
If he is with you, express my sincere regrets to him -
Love to dear Mrs. G. & much to yourself H.

Send me a copy of *Agassiz's* 'List of Plants of N. Am.'
if you have any *reprints* - First, please five
any request to have *Rank* not one in my name

Prof. A. Gray
Cambridge
Massachusetts

